

Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT)

March 4 2008 TORNADOES SITUATION REPORT # 14 (Final Report) 28 April 2008, 1400 Hours

New information is in BOLD ITALICS.

SUMMARY

In the early evening hours of March 4 a cold front moving across the Commonwealth generated storm activity. These storms produced rain, wind and reported tornadoes. National Weather Service Morristown confirmed that an EF1 Tornado did touch down in Big Stone Gap, Wise County Virginia. Preliminary damage reports have been received from several jurisdictions and state agencies. No injuries or deaths were reported.

EXECUTIVE ACTION

EOC Activation: The Virginia VEOC is at Recovery Operations with ***normal*** staffing.

State of Emergency: Governor Kaine declared a State of Emergency at 1119 hours 5 March 2008. Executive Order – [NUMBER SIXTY-FOUR \(2008\)](#)

Federal Declaration: No declaration has been requested at this time.

Protective Actions: Local Emergency Declared by:
Wise County at 1800 hours 4 March 2008
Town of Big Stone Gap at 1700 hours 4 March 2008
Essex County at 0800 hours 5 March 2008

WEATHER

Forecast: Southwest VA: ***Monday 28 April: A 40% chance of showers before 2pm. Mostly cloudy with a high near 57. Monday night: Showers likely, mainly between 8pm and 2 am. Mostly cloudy with a low around 31. West wind between 5 and 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%. Tuesday 29 April: A 40% chance of showers before 8am. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 53. Northwest wind between 10 and 15 mph with Higher gust. Tuesday night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 36. Northwest wind Between 5 and 10 mph becoming calm.***

OPERATIONS SECTION

ESF 5 – Emergency Management: Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)
Event created in WebEOC “2008-03 Tornadoes 03-04-08”. VDEM and localities posting event related information and resource requests in WebEOC. VDEM is monitoring recovery operations.

Local Liaison: VDEM Region 4 Coordinator continues to monitor recovery activities and remains available to assist if needed.

INFRASTRUCTURE BRANCH

ESF 1 – Transportation: Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
VDOT provided signage, 2 front end loaders, 2 dump trucks, transportation, chainsaws and safety equipment to support Department of Correction personnel in debris removal in Big Stone Gap. VDOT signs were demobilized on 10 March and additional VDOT resources and crews demobilized on 17 March.

LOGISTICS SECTION

ESF 7 – Resource Support: Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

3 requests for assistance were cancelled. A total of 9 requests have been completed. All State resources demobilized at the COB 17 March.

Virginia Department of Corrections (VDOC)

Provided 2 – 10 inmate work crews to assist in debris removal in the Town of Big Stone Gap. VDOC resources demobilized on 17 March.

ESF 17 – Volunteers and Donations:

Virginia Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VA-VOAD)

VA-VOAD representatives were on scene 14 March evaluating resource needs for the Town of Big Stone Gap. VA Southern Baptist Disaster Relief Officials met with Big Stone Gap Officials 17 March to initiate an action plan to assist in continued recovery efforts. VA-VOAD resources were in Wise County and Town of Big Stone Gap 24-25 March and canvassed impacted areas to determine unmet needs. Collected data was provided to Wise County Emergency Management and Gap Corporation, local aid group, to distribute funds already collected.

PLANNING SECTION

Situation Unit:

Preparing weekly Situation Reports, monitoring WebEOC entries and maintaining situational awareness. ***This is the Final Situation Report. The VEOC has returned to Routine Operational Status Monday, 28 April at 0800 hours.***

ESF 14 – Recovery:

Wise County and Big Stone Gap submitted damage estimates and receipts on 7 April in addition to information submitted on 31 March. VDEM Public Assistance staff continues the process of assessing damage estimates to determine eligibility of damages and the need for field inspections. Recovery staff is coordinating to conduct a site visit to confirm damage estimates and will contact Wise County and Big Stone Gap officials to review submitted documentation.

VDEM Individual Assistance staff determined that there was not enough eligible damage to qualify for Small Business Administration and/or FEMA Stafford Act declarations.

VDOT completed their site inspection and has submitted all documentation to Recovery and Mitigation staff. Recovery and Mitigation staff continues to receive documentation and work with Wise County and Big Stone Gap to verify damages.

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

Wise County:

Reported 6 houses destroyed, 15 with major damage, and 25 with moderate or lesser damage. Wise County declared a local emergency and their EOC is open on a limited schedule, 8am until 5pm, with limited staffing and has been in contact with VDEM Recovery and Mitigation personnel. Local Social Services contacted to begin setting up meetings to assist residents in need. Initial damage assessment received from Wise County on 13 March. The Town of Big Stone Gap Incident Command Post relocated to the local police station on 14 March. Wise County reported over 100 truck loads of debris has been removed from the impacted area and relocated to a local quarry. Disposal of debris is a main concern and Wise County is investigating options to address this concern. The Town of Big Stone Gap submitted a Notice of Interest in Applying for Commonwealth Emergency Relief 19 March 2008 estimating total eligible costs of \$2.5 - \$3 million. A fund raiser was held on 28 March that raised \$27,000 that the Gap Corporation will distribute to impacted residents in need.

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